



MARYLAND

STATE HOUSE



Built between 1772-79 the Maryland State House is the oldest state house in continuous legislative use. From November 26, 1783, to August 13, 1784, it housed the Continental Congress, and it is the only state house ever to have served as the nation's Capitol. It was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Department of Interior in July 1968.

Construction of the State House, designed by Joseph Horatio Anderson, began in 1772, was delayed by the outbreak of the American Revolution and was completed in 1779. The dome, which replaced an earlier cupola, was designed by Joseph Clark and completed in 1788 and is the largest wooden dome in the United States.

The interior of the original section of the State House is constructed of wood and plaster. Some of it is the work of the noted Colonial architect Joseph Clark. The newer Colonial Revival section, designed by Baldwin and Pennington, has matched veined Italian marble walls and columns. It was added between 1902 and 1905. A broad black line across the floor of the center hall marks the line between the old and new sections of the building.

The front entrance, which faces the Annapolis harbor, opens into the main lobby. The Senate and House of Delegates chambers, located on the first floor, are open to the public. The second floor of the original section is





Washington Resigning His Commission
by Edwin White (1859). Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 1545-1112

occupied by the offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor.

On the right wall there is a plaque commemorating the contributions of Matthew Alexander Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole. Nearby, in a small glass case, is the miniature Maryland flag that accompanied astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. and Michael Collins on the first manned moon flight in the *Apollo 11*. Displayed with the flag are tiny moon particles brought back by the mission.

Just outside the Visitors Center is a plaque commemorating the space shuttle *Challenger*. The plaque contains a crew patch, state flag and American flag. These were presented to the people of Maryland by Mrs. Michael Smith, wife of the commander who was a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Displayed above the Grand Staircase that leads to the second floor is the often reproduced original painting titled *Washington Resigning His Commission*, by Edwin White.

The Old Senate Chamber

The Maryland State House was the first peacetime capitol of the United States, and it was in the Old Senate Chamber that the Continental Congress, the governing body of the new nation, met from November 1783 to August 1784. Two outstanding members of

Congress during this period were Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe, both future presidents of the United States.

It was in this room that General George Washington, on December 23, 1783, resigned his commission as commander in chief of the Continental Army. A bronze plaque on the floor marks the exact spot where he stood while delivering his farewell speech. Less than a month later, on January 14, 1784, the Treaty of Paris was ratified in this same room, officially ending the Revolutionary War. On May 7, 1784, the Chamber was the scene of Thomas Jefferson's appointment as the first United States

minister plenipotentiary to foreign governments.

Some pieces of the original furniture from 1794 remain in the room. They were made by Annapolis cabinetmaker John Shaw. The head on the mannequin of Washington is a replica of the one sculpted by the Frenchman Jean-Antoine Houdon in 1785; the uniform is an exact replica of one worn by Washington, which is now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The painting above the fireplace is *Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown*, the 1784 work of Charles Willson Peale. It shows General George Washington with his aide-de-camp and secretary, Colonel Tench Tilghman, and the Marquis de Lafayette. Col. Tilghman, a Marylander, was the courier who carried the news of the British surrender at Yorktown

to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The other portraits in the room are of early governors of Maryland painted by Charles Willson Peale.

At the rear of the room, on either side of the entrance to the Old Senate Chamber, is a gallery with two rows of Windsor chairs. It was here that the gentlemen spectators and commissioners sat. Above this area is the Ladies Balcony. The beautiful hand-carved tobacco leaf motif featured on the decorative border around the balcony and above the dais at the front of the room gives a hint as to the importance of tobacco in Maryland's history. During the 17th and early 18th centuries, tobacco was the chief cash crop and the currency of the province.

The Maryland Silver Room

A distinctive masterpiece of silversmithing, the USS *Maryland* Silver Service was designed and wrought by Samuel Kirk and Sons, Inc. of Baltimore and was presented to the armored cruiser USS *Maryland* in 1906. When the new battleship USS *Maryland* was commissioned in 1921, the silver service was transferred to her. When this ship was decommissioned after WWII, the silver service was returned to Maryland. Four pieces of this silver service are presently aboard the nuclear submarine USS *Maryland*. The ornamentation on each piece represents a historic scene, event or product of one of the 23 counties and Baltimore City.



Anne Arundel County Centerpiece, USS Maryland Silver Service by Samuel Kirk and Sons.
Maryland State Archives MSA SC 1545-1120

This room also contains exhibits relating to Maryland and its role in the creation of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The large flag on the wall is a replica of the flag made by John Shaw to fly over the State House when Annapolis was the capital of the United States. Two paintings in the room, by Francis Blackwell Mayer, are *The Planting of the Colony* and *The Burning of the Peggy Stewart*.

The Archives Room

The Archives Room marks the end of the 18th-century State House. A brick floor and vaulted ceiling (brick under plaster) were used to fireproof the room. Exhibits include a cross section of the dome (constructed of cypress beams and assembled with wooden pegs) and early photographs showing changes made to the interior of the State House.

Old Senate Committee Room

Over the fireplace is a portrait of William Pitt, First Earl of Chatham and champion of American rights in the British Parliament. This painting of England's great statesman by Charles Willson Peale was the artist's gift to the General Assembly for the new state house. Other exhibits depict life in Annapolis during the time that the Continental Congress met here.

The House of Delegates

The Italian marble on the walls of the House of Delegates and new Senate chambers is an unusual rust and black coloring that approximates the gold and black of the Maryland state flag.

The largest of the two legislative chambers, the House, has 141 members. There are three members from each of the state's 47 legislative election districts.

The electronic voting boards on either side of the room are part of the computerized voting system activated by switches set into the lower part of each desk.

One of the Plexiglas booths in the balcony is for the physically challenged. The other is used by radio and TV reporters. Newspaper and other print reporters sit at the left of the Speaker's desk.



The New Senate Chamber

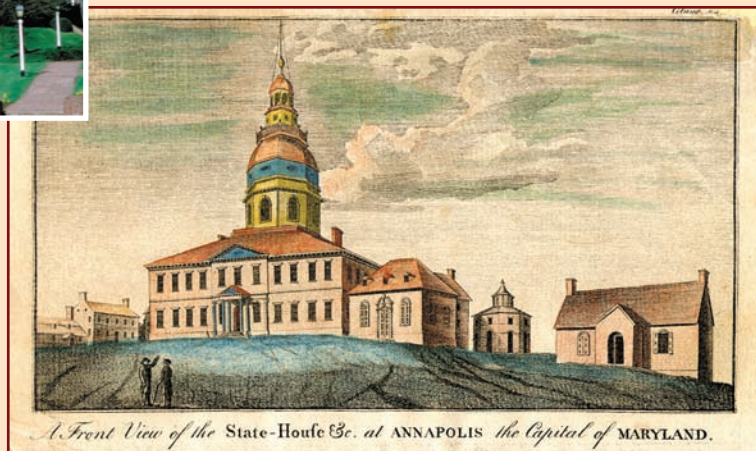
The new Senate Chamber is decorated in red and white, the Crossland family colors on the Maryland flag. There are 47 senators, one to represent each of Maryland's 47 legislative election districts. Maryland's legislature meets every year for 90 calendar days, beginning the second Wednesday in January. Occasionally, it is necessary for the governor to call a special session.

The Senate Chamber has two visitors' galleries, which may be entered by the second floor.

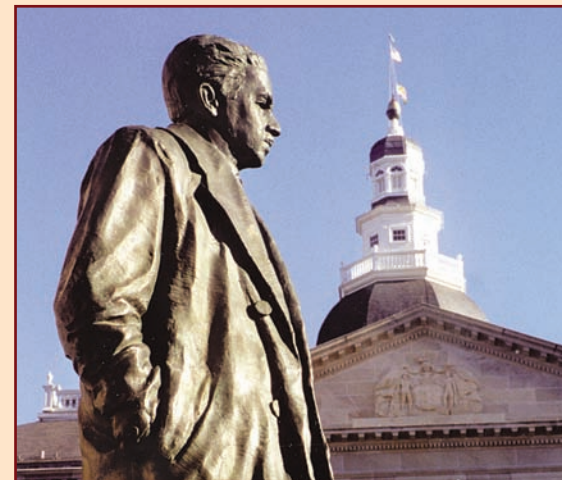
On either side of the desk at the front of the chamber are two statues. The one on the left is of John Hanson, a Marylander and the first president of the United States under the Articles of Confederation in 1781.

The second statue, on the right, is of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, one of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence.

All four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence are depicted in the portraits on the side walls. On the left wall, from left to right, are William Paca, governor of Maryland for three terms, and Thomas Stone, state legislator. On the right wall, from right to left, are Samuel Chase, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, member of the Maryland Senate and U.S. Senator from Maryland.



*The Maryland State House, 1789 by Charles Willson Peale.
Maryland State Archives MSA SC 194-3*



Thurgood Marshall Statue, by Maryland artist Toby Mendez, honoring the first black Supreme Court Justice, is located in Lawyer's Mall on the north side of the State House.

The portrait of Charles Carroll of Carrollton is by Thomas Sully, one of the foremost portrait painters of his time. The other three are by John Beale Bordley.

Guided Tours

To help make your visit to Maryland's State House more enjoyable and to provide you with an understanding of its historical significance, guided tours are conducted by the State House guides under the auspices of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Office of Tourism Development. The State House Visitors Center is open Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm. Tours are given at 11am and 3pm. The State House is closed Christmas Day; no tours are given Thanksgiving Day or New Year's Day.

For tour information and arrangements:

Maryland State House

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Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

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